

PROBLEMS FOR "SUN" READERS TO SOLVE

Ernest Bergholt Makes Forced Discard Out of the Usual Run.

PITFALLS AT CHECKERS

Bridge problem No. 360, by Ernest Bergholt, made a wide departure from the usual run of forced discard situations, the key to the solution being to place the lead with an opponent at a time when he had only one suit left to play. Here is the distribution:

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on Z's seeing that even if he makes three club tricks and three aces he will still be one short of his contract, and the only possible trick in sight is the jack of diamonds.

Some solvers, evidently seeing this, led the small diamond at once from Z's hand. A passing the first trick and allowing Y to win with the jack, B discarding the club king. A club lead from Y enables Z to clear the suit by putting on the ace and returning the five. Now two clubs, ace of hearts, diamonds and spades all good for tricks. Y has the ace of hearts for reentry in one hand, and Z has the spade ace in the other.

But this solution can be defeated by A's putting on the queen of diamonds second hand, shutting out the jack for the time being, and leading the ten of hearts, so as to get that suit cleared before Y clears the clubs.

If Y plays the ace of hearts at once he must lead the clubs, and on the second round A gets in and leads another heart, giving B two more tricks. If Y passes, the first heart it wins a trick for A, and the club jack defeats the solution.

The only correct solution is for Z to lead a heart and for Y to pass up to no matter what A does. This brings about several variations, all leading to the same end.

If A is left with the lead and returns the heart Y gets in with the ace and clears the suit, so as to clear A's hand of that suit. Z wins the spade and starts the clubs, leading ace first, putting A in. It is now evident that A cannot make a diamond trick, but must give Y the jack and two clubs, while Z makes the ace of diamonds.

If A leads the spades for the second trick Z must be careful to lead the heart before starting the clubs. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart or the spade, either Y or Z wins the trick according to the card A leads, and the clubs are cleared at once, as the second diamond trick is then assured.

If B wins the first heart trick his best defense is the club, which Z wins. This forces Y and Z to make both aces of spades and hearts before returning the clubs, so that A shall have nothing but diamonds to lead at the end.

Correct solutions from:

J. W. Worre, W. J. W. J. Warren, Miller, F. H. Fairfield, L. T. Lowry, George H. Noyes, Frank B. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Heath, Herbert Grey Williams, Charles Douglas, Walter Seider, L. S. Hart, Jr., C. Hume, W. T. Lighthouse, George B. Glover, Mrs. John M. Braly, R. M. Whitehead, Marie Thannhauser, D. Perry, Mortimer Hower, Joseph E. Clark, G. G. Rockwell, E. W. White, C. F. Johnson, D. A. W., O. H. Boston, N. K. Ward, G. W. Jackson, Sidney McNeil, Henry B. Lewis and Grace Colbin.

This is a good thing for the honor list, and if the solvers keep up the pace for the next ten there should be a new champion in the field, but the solvers appear to be getting stronger every day. Harry Boardman, Jay Reed, Frank

Handwritten card game diagram showing a bridge problem. It includes a list of cards for each player (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z) and a sequence of plays. The cards are arranged in a grid, with some cards marked with 'X' or 'Y' to indicate specific plays or discards. The sequence of plays is written in a column next to the grid.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on Z's seeing that even if he makes three club tricks and three aces he will still be one short of his contract, and the only possible trick in sight is the jack of diamonds.

Some solvers, evidently seeing this, led the small diamond at once from Z's hand. A passing the first trick and allowing Y to win with the jack, B discarding the club king. A club lead from Y enables Z to clear the suit by putting on the ace and returning the five. Now two clubs, ace of hearts, diamonds and spades all good for tricks. Y has the ace of hearts for reentry in one hand, and Z has the spade ace in the other.

But this solution can be defeated by A's putting on the queen of diamonds second hand, shutting out the jack for the time being, and leading the ten of hearts, so as to get that suit cleared before Y clears the clubs.

If Y plays the ace of hearts at once he must lead the clubs, and on the second round A gets in and leads another heart, giving B two more tricks. If Y passes, the first heart it wins a trick for A, and the club jack defeats the solution.

The only correct solution is for Z to lead a heart and for Y to pass up to no matter what A does. This brings about several variations, all leading to the same end.

If A is left with the lead and returns the heart Y gets in with the ace and clears the suit, so as to clear A's hand of that suit. Z wins the spade and starts the clubs, leading ace first, putting A in. It is now evident that A cannot make a diamond trick, but must give Y the jack and two clubs, while Z makes the ace of diamonds.

If A leads the spades for the second trick Z must be careful to lead the heart before starting the clubs. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart or the spade, either Y or Z wins the trick according to the card A leads, and the clubs are cleared at once, as the second diamond trick is then assured.

If B wins the first heart trick his best defense is the club, which Z wins. This forces Y and Z to make both aces of spades and hearts before returning the clubs, so that A shall have nothing but diamonds to lead at the end.

Correct solutions from:

J. W. Worre, W. J. W. J. Warren, Miller, F. H. Fairfield, L. T. Lowry, George H. Noyes, Frank B. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Heath, Herbert Grey Williams, Charles Douglas, Walter Seider, L. S. Hart, Jr., C. Hume, W. T. Lighthouse, George B. Glover, Mrs. John M. Braly, R. M. Whitehead, Marie Thannhauser, D. Perry, Mortimer Hower, Joseph E. Clark, G. G. Rockwell, E. W. White, C. F. Johnson, D. A. W., O. H. Boston, N. K. Ward, G. W. Jackson, Sidney McNeil, Henry B. Lewis and Grace Colbin.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on Z's seeing that even if he makes three club tricks and three aces he will still be one short of his contract, and the only possible trick in sight is the jack of diamonds.

Some solvers, evidently seeing this, led the small diamond at once from Z's hand. A passing the first trick and allowing Y to win with the jack, B discarding the club king. A club lead from Y enables Z to clear the suit by putting on the ace and returning the five. Now two clubs, ace of hearts, diamonds and spades all good for tricks. Y has the ace of hearts for reentry in one hand, and Z has the spade ace in the other.

But this solution can be defeated by A's putting on the queen of diamonds second hand, shutting out the jack for the time being, and leading the ten of hearts, so as to get that suit cleared before Y clears the clubs.

If Y plays the ace of hearts at once he must lead the clubs, and on the second round A gets in and leads another heart, giving B two more tricks. If Y passes, the first heart it wins a trick for A, and the club jack defeats the solution.

The only correct solution is for Z to lead a heart and for Y to pass up to no matter what A does. This brings about several variations, all leading to the same end.

If A is left with the lead and returns the heart Y gets in with the ace and clears the suit, so as to clear A's hand of that suit. Z wins the spade and starts the clubs, leading ace first, putting A in. It is now evident that A cannot make a diamond trick, but must give Y the jack and two clubs, while Z makes the ace of diamonds.

If A leads the spades for the second trick Z must be careful to lead the heart before starting the clubs. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart or the spade, either Y or Z wins the trick according to the card A leads, and the clubs are cleared at once, as the second diamond trick is then assured.

If B wins the first heart trick his best defense is the club, which Z wins. This forces Y and Z to make both aces of spades and hearts before returning the clubs, so that A shall have nothing but diamonds to lead at the end.

Correct solutions from:

J. W. Worre, W. J. W. J. Warren, Miller, F. H. Fairfield, L. T. Lowry, George H. Noyes, Frank B. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Heath, Herbert Grey Williams, Charles Douglas, Walter Seider, L. S. Hart, Jr., C. Hume, W. T. Lighthouse, George B. Glover, Mrs. John M. Braly, R. M. Whitehead, Marie Thannhauser, D. Perry, Mortimer Hower, Joseph E. Clark, G. G. Rockwell, E. W. White, C. F. Johnson, D. A. W., O. H. Boston, N. K. Ward, G. W. Jackson, Sidney McNeil, Henry B. Lewis and Grace Colbin.

Handwritten card game diagram showing a bridge problem. It includes a list of cards for each player (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z) and a sequence of plays. The cards are arranged in a grid, with some cards marked with 'X' or 'Y' to indicate specific plays or discards. The sequence of plays is written in a column next to the grid.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on Z's seeing that even if he makes three club tricks and three aces he will still be one short of his contract, and the only possible trick in sight is the jack of diamonds.

Some solvers, evidently seeing this, led the small diamond at once from Z's hand. A passing the first trick and allowing Y to win with the jack, B discarding the club king. A club lead from Y enables Z to clear the suit by putting on the ace and returning the five. Now two clubs, ace of hearts, diamonds and spades all good for tricks. Y has the ace of hearts for reentry in one hand, and Z has the spade ace in the other.

But this solution can be defeated by A's putting on the queen of diamonds second hand, shutting out the jack for the time being, and leading the ten of hearts, so as to get that suit cleared before Y clears the clubs.

If Y plays the ace of hearts at once he must lead the clubs, and on the second round A gets in and leads another heart, giving B two more tricks. If Y passes, the first heart it wins a trick for A, and the club jack defeats the solution.

The only correct solution is for Z to lead a heart and for Y to pass up to no matter what A does. This brings about several variations, all leading to the same end.

If A is left with the lead and returns the heart Y gets in with the ace and clears the suit, so as to clear A's hand of that suit. Z wins the spade and starts the clubs, leading ace first, putting A in. It is now evident that A cannot make a diamond trick, but must give Y the jack and two clubs, while Z makes the ace of diamonds.

If A leads the spades for the second trick Z must be careful to lead the heart before starting the clubs. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart or the spade, either Y or Z wins the trick according to the card A leads, and the clubs are cleared at once, as the second diamond trick is then assured.

If B wins the first heart trick his best defense is the club, which Z wins. This forces Y and Z to make both aces of spades and hearts before returning the clubs, so that A shall have nothing but diamonds to lead at the end.

Correct solutions from:

J. W. Worre, W. J. W. J. Warren, Miller, F. H. Fairfield, L. T. Lowry, George H. Noyes, Frank B. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Heath, Herbert Grey Williams, Charles Douglas, Walter Seider, L. S. Hart, Jr., C. Hume, W. T. Lighthouse, George B. Glover, Mrs. John M. Braly, R. M. Whitehead, Marie Thannhauser, D. Perry, Mortimer Hower, Joseph E. Clark, G. G. Rockwell, E. W. White, C. F. Johnson, D. A. W., O. H. Boston, N. K. Ward, G. W. Jackson, Sidney McNeil, Henry B. Lewis and Grace Colbin.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on Z's seeing that even if he makes three club tricks and three aces he will still be one short of his contract, and the only possible trick in sight is the jack of diamonds.

Some solvers, evidently seeing this, led the small diamond at once from Z's hand. A passing the first trick and allowing Y to win with the jack, B discarding the club king. A club lead from Y enables Z to clear the suit by putting on the ace and returning the five. Now two clubs, ace of hearts, diamonds and spades all good for tricks. Y has the ace of hearts for reentry in one hand, and Z has the spade ace in the other.

But this solution can be defeated by A's putting on the queen of diamonds second hand, shutting out the jack for the time being, and leading the ten of hearts, so as to get that suit cleared before Y clears the clubs.

If Y plays the ace of hearts at once he must lead the clubs, and on the second round A gets in and leads another heart, giving B two more tricks. If Y passes, the first heart it wins a trick for A, and the club jack defeats the solution.

The only correct solution is for Z to lead a heart and for Y to pass up to no matter what A does. This brings about several variations, all leading to the same end.

If A is left with the lead and returns the heart Y gets in with the ace and clears the suit, so as to clear A's hand of that suit. Z wins the spade and starts the clubs, leading ace first, putting A in. It is now evident that A cannot make a diamond trick, but must give Y the jack and two clubs, while Z makes the ace of diamonds.

If A leads the spades for the second trick Z must be careful to lead the heart before starting the clubs. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart or the spade, either Y or Z wins the trick according to the card A leads, and the clubs are cleared at once, as the second diamond trick is then assured.

If B wins the first heart trick his best defense is the club, which Z wins. This forces Y and Z to make both aces of spades and hearts before returning the clubs, so that A shall have nothing but diamonds to lead at the end.

Correct solutions from:

J. W. Worre, W. J. W. J. Warren, Miller, F. H. Fairfield, L. T. Lowry, George H. Noyes, Frank B. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Heath, Herbert Grey Williams, Charles Douglas, Walter Seider, L. S. Hart, Jr., C. Hume, W. T. Lighthouse, George B. Glover, Mrs. John M. Braly, R. M. Whitehead, Marie Thannhauser, D. Perry, Mortimer Hower, Joseph E. Clark, G. G. Rockwell, E. W. White, C. F. Johnson, D. A. W., O. H. Boston, N. K. Ward, G. W. Jackson, Sidney McNeil, Henry B. Lewis and Grace Colbin.

PLAYERS SET RIGHT AT ROYAL AUCTION

Interesting Cases Passed On by The Whist Club's Committee.

VALUE OF ELEVEN RULE

Several interesting cases have lately been passed upon by the committee on laws of The Whist Club. Some of the decisions are what might be called pretty close, but are unquestionably correct.

R. McC. says the declarer leads a heart from dummy. Second hand plays the nine of spades, and his partner at once asks him, "No hearts, partner?" to which he answers, "Yes, I have."

The declarer at once says, "Leave the nine," but adds, "Play your highest heart." The adversaries object, on the ground that the declarer has elected his penalty and cannot change it.

The decision of the committee is as follows: It and others following it being all signed by the chairman, Milton C. Work, and forwarded to The Sun for publication.

"In the opinion of the committee the entire question hinges upon whether the player fully made his election. Had he completed his decision in such words, as for example, 'Leave the nine of spades upon the table,' that would have been a determination that he elected to call that card, and he could not thereafter have demanded the playing of the highest heart.

"In this case, however, the declarer did not apparently reach a final determination. It would look as if he had started one decision and then changed it to another. 'Leave the nine' does not mean much more than the mere word 'leave,' which could not be construed as a decision. It might be that the intent was to finish the sentence, 'Leave the nine on the table or not, as you choose, but play your highest heart.' It would, therefore, seem that the declarer was within his rights in demanding the playing of the highest heart."

Here is another case: One of the declarer leads a club, the player on his left trump, it follows suit, but the fourth player renounces, discarding a small diamond. The player who trumped the trick exposes the king of spades, and at the same time his partner says, "Whoa!" indicating that he has a club. The last trick still lies face upward on the table, and the player still holds the spade king in his hand. Does the exposure of the spade king establish the revoke? The decision says:

"The committee decides that as the trick is in time to correct his revoke because the king of spades is not actually led or played to the next trick until it is quitted, and adds that law 64, although referring particularly to the declarer, should apply equally to the adversaries in the matter of quitted cards. The king of spades is an exposed card of course, and subject to call after the revoke is corrected and the trick turned down."

W. L. submits this case, which brings up an interesting point, requiring a rather close decision. The declaration is four clubs. "So go game the declarer must use one of dummy's trumps on the spade suit after it has been found that A, on the declarer's left, is out of trumps."

Declarer leads a spade, dummy trumps, B overtrumps, leading a diamond. Declarer plays to the lead, when B exclaims, "What did I play to that last trick? Dummy, who has been looking at B's hand, says, 'Why, you revoked of course.' A and B maintain that dummy's calling attention to the revoke waives the penalty, but the declarer insists on B's correcting the revoke, so that dummy shall win the trick, which gives the declarer the game."

The question is: Did dummy call attention to the revoke or did B do so by his exclamation? Further, can the declarer insist on the revoke's being corrected after he has played to the next trick? The decision says:

"The committee has considered this case carefully and feels that it comes within the strict ruling of the law providing that when a dummy has looked at the cards of an adversary and calls attention to a revoke the penalty cannot be enforced. It is true that the case is made unusually close by the fact that the offending player himself raised the question, but all that he says is, 'What did I play to that last trick?' and it is possible, although not probable, that the declarer did not notice the revoke, but he is as it may be the dummy's act under the laws precludes a penalty being enforced for it. It is therefore under the circumstances that the declarer cannot insist upon the revoke being corrected."

This decision should be a lesson to the dummy who are constantly overlooking an adversary's cards. It will be observed that had dummy not looked at B's hand he could have legitimately called attention to the revoke without being liable to a penalty.

Here is a case not likely to happen often, but which suggests the possibility of an unscrupulous player making a pack imperfect when things were going against him:

The declarer is on the way to making what will be a small slam when there are only three tricks left to play. At that point one of the adversaries claims that he is a muddled and shows four cards, two of which are duplicates (the four of clubs), and one of which is from the other pack, which lies on his left. He shows three other cards, but not the number of cards. The footnote to law 40 says that if a deal is concluded without any claim of irregularity that fact shall be deemed as conclusive that such claim had been made and that card mislaid. In other words the deal is void. Is this correct?

The committee does not agree with this application, but only on the ground that in the case of three players having the correct number of cards and the fourth having one extra card, which upon examination is proved to be a card from the other pack, the foot note to law 40 does not apply. That note provides that it is presumed when a deal is completed without any claim of irregularity the fifty-two cards had been dealt and that any card mislaid has been due to the fault of the player who properly received it.

"In this case the presumption would be that the cards had been properly dealt and that the acquisition of the extra card was due to the error of the player who held it. The player could have protected himself by counting his cards, and it is not apparent that

Herbert L. Samuel, New British Home Secretary

Continued from Fourth Page.

sovereign's delivery to them of the seals of office. These seals consist of three seals, known respectively as the Signet, the Seal and the Cachet, the Seal alone being used for royal warrants. Seals of office are held only by the Secretaries of State, and not by any other members of the Administration, excepting the Lord Privy Seal, who, as his title implies, has charge of the sovereign's privy seal; and the Lord High Chancellor of the realm, who has confided to him the Great Seal of England as its keeper.

Until a few years ago the Secretary of State for the Home Department was the only dignitary of the realm who possessed the power of quashing a conviction and of modifying a sentence in criminal cases, even when the sentence was one of death; this too in spite of the fact that he was often lacking in any sort of legal knowledge, and not a member of the bar. There was no court of appeal in criminal cases, and no matter how unjust the sentence, nor how gross the miscarriage of justice there was no one who had the power to annul or change it except the Secretary of the Home Department, acting in the name of the sovereign.

It was that which rendered the revision of the conviction of Mrs. Maybrick so difficult. Had a court of appeal existed at the time she would undoubtedly have escaped the long sentence of penal servitude which she underwent, on the ground of the glaring technical errors that characterized her trial, by an eminent judge, whose once brilliant mind was afterwards proved to have been already at the time unimpaired. It was only after she had been set at liberty by order of the Home Secretary that the Court of Criminal Appeal now in existence was established.

Of course this Court of Criminal Appeal has greatly reduced the work and the responsibilities of the Home Secretary in connection with criminal cases. But in spite of its existence he still retains the right to revise its decrees and to modify, commute or revoke altogether sentences which it may have confirmed. That the Secretary should be possessed of this right rests not on any law of the land but merely on usage.

Premier Asquith in a letter printed in the English papers in January two years ago declared that "the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy is vested solely by constitutional practice in the Secretary of State for Home Affairs."

This "constitutional practice" dates from the accession of Queen Victoria. In 1837. It was felt by her Ministers when she came to the throne that it would be unfair to require so young a girl to examine the circumstances of the horrible crimes for which the death penalty was in those days pronounced, or to burden her conscience with the responsibility of determining the life or death of her fellow creatures, so the duty of deciding whether or not the Crown's prerogative of mercy should be exercised in any particular case was delegated to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

To such an extent has this prerogative been thus alienated from the sovereign, not by act of Parliament but, as the Premier says, by mere "con-

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. BROOKLYN'S BEST KNOWN PIANO HOUSE ONE PRICE—NO COMMISSIONS

Whom do you Hold Responsible For Guarantee and Service When You Buy a Piano?

Certainly for the fulfillment of guarantees and the execution of service you do not look to some person through whose recommendation you made your purchase, but to the actual concern from whom you bought your piano.

The recommendation, therefore, of a person who is paid a secret commission on your purchase is not only of questionable value but absolutely unfair to you.

WE PAY NO COMMISSIONS

Our three large factories, owned and operated by the Sterling Co., have everything that highest skill, ample capital and large output can do to manufacture pianos of high quality at the smallest cost.

To this cost we add a fair profit and sell direct to the public without other extras of any kind. Any one can understand that this legitimate profit cannot be sacrificed without sacrificing the success of our business.

To pay commissions would mean either a direct loss on a sale or that the commissions would have to be added to the cost of the Piano, and therefore a tax on the purchaser for which he gets nothing.

We believe the public is entitled to every benefit of our low prices and therefore we will not pay commissions.

Those who appreciate the best music are often the very ones whose circumstances for the time will not permit the fullest gratification. The

STERLING Piano at \$325

and upwards, according to size and case design, is the one that meets the highest ideals of such people. But many, instead of coming to us at once with their problem, wait for a year or more to gratify a necessity really within their grasp. We make the best small priced piano that can be sold anywhere to-day for the money. It is the

MENDELSSOHN Piano at \$225

A correct, sweet and pure toned instrument, satisfying to the real music lover, and practical in every way.

It meets the immediate needs of any one and is a credit to any home.

If within a year you are ready to buy a Sterling, we will allow you every cent you have paid on the Mendelssohn to apply on the purchase.

We have a liberal, business-like plan of weekly or monthly payments if you do not wish to pay cash.

VICTROLAS \$15 to \$400

It is the Service of the Sterling Piano Co. that has made its Victrola Department known as the Victrola Centre of Brooklyn and that enables the purchaser to get the greatest amount of usefulness and real enjoyment from his instrument. Then in selecting your Records the Sterling Piano Co. can give you unofficial suggestions that will save your time as well as be very helpful in the way of information.

The Sterling Piano Co.

Telephone 5600 Main Manufacturers Open Evenings by Appointment Wholesale and Retail Warerooms: STERLING BUILDING, 518-520 Fulton Street, Corner of Hanover Place, Brooklyn.

PEACE HINT IN WOOL BUYING

London, Dec. 31.—German wool buyers are believed to have been in London for some time, but they have not been seen. It is understood that the wool buyers are in London for the purpose of buying wool for the German army. The wool buyers are believed to have been in London for some time, but they have not been seen. It is understood that the wool buyers are in London for the purpose of buying wool for the German army.

EXPLORE FLOE AND HIS MONEY

Paris, Dec. 31.—All sorts of rumors are being spread about the fate of the expedition of Dr. Floe. It is believed that the expedition has been successful in finding the North Pole. The expedition was led by Dr. Floe, and it is believed that they have found the North Pole. The expedition was led by Dr. Floe, and it is believed that they have found the North Pole.

Hero Priests of the War

By THE REV. DR. PETER GUILDAY

A series of vivid and thrilling stories of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty that parallel any narrative of heroism produced by the Great War. The first of the series,

William Finn, The Hero of the Dardanelles

In The Sun Next Sunday

Other articles to follow in order will be:

GILBERT DE GIRONDE, THE HERO OF YPRES

THE MARTYR OF GELRODE, JOSEPH DERGENT

THE HERO OF BELGIUM, CARDINAL MERCIER

A HERO FROM BALTIMORE, JULES ALBERT BAISNEE

Dr. Guilday, the writer, is a young professor in the Catholic University of America at Washington. He is a graduate of the University of Louvain and was in Belgium when the war broke out. He venerates the historic places of the Old World and writes from the heart.

Don't fail to read the first of this graphic series.

In The Sun Next Sunday

Your newsdealer will reserve a copy. A word to him to-day assures it.